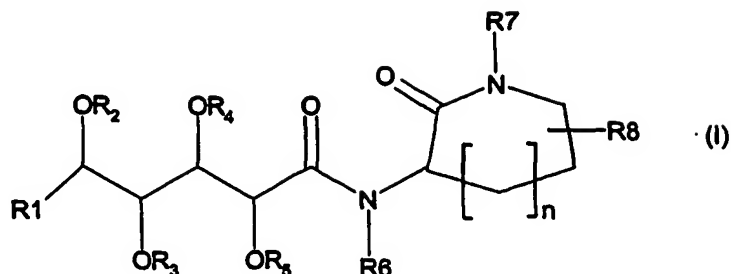


What is claimed is:

## 1. A compound of the formula I:



or a salt thereof, wherein

$n$  is 0, 1 or 2;

$R_1$  is H,  $X_1$ -( $C_{1-6}$ ) alkyl-, ( $C_{1-12}$ )alkylC(O)-,  $X_2$ -( $C_{2-4}$ ) alkenylene-,  $X_2$ -( $C_{2-4}$ ) alkynylene-,  $X_1$ -( $C_{3-9}$ )cycloalkyl-,  $X_2$ -( $C_{3-9}$ )cycloalkene-,  $X_1$ -aryl-,  $X_1$ -( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkane-( $C_{1-6}$ )alkylene-,  $X_2$ -( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkene-( $C_{1-6}$ )alkylene-, or  $X_1$ -aryl-( $C_{1-6}$ )alkylene-;

$X_1$  is H, ( $C_{1-14}$ )alkyl, ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, ( $C_{1-14}$ )alkyl substituted by ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, -OR<sub>a</sub>, -SR<sub>a</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, halo or ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-( $C_{1-12}$ )alkyl-, -OR<sub>a</sub>, -SR<sub>a</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, halo, ( $C_{1-12}$ )alkyl-C(O)-, mono- or di-( $C_{1-4}$ )alkylamino, amino( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl-, or mono- or di-( $C_{1-4}$ )alkylamino( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl;

$X_2$  is H, ( $C_{1-14}$ )alkyl, ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, ( $C_{1-14}$ )alkyl substituted by ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, -OR<sub>a</sub>, -SR<sub>a</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, halo or ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl-C(O)-; aryl, aryl-( $C_{1-12}$ )alkyl-, amino( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl- or mono- or di-( $C_{1-4}$ )alkylamino( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl;

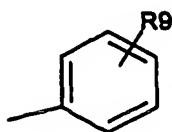
$R_a$  is H, ( $C_{1-18}$ )alkyl, aryl, or ( $C_{1-18}$ )alkyl substituted by ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, aryl, -OH, -O-( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl or halo;

$R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are independently hydrogen or ( $C_{1-18}$ )alkyl,  $R_5$  is also phenyl or ( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl which is substituted by phenyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 18 carbon atoms in the combined  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  alkyl substituents, or  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  together or  $R_3$  and  $R_5$  together form an acetal group;

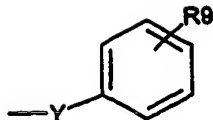
$R_6$  is hydrogen or ( $C_{1-6}$ ) alkyl;

$R_7$  is H, ( $C_{1-18}$ )alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, ( $C_{1-18}$ )alkyl substituted by ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, -OR<sub>x</sub>, N<sub>3</sub>, halo, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>x</sub>, -O-( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, -OC(O)-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl or pyridyl; -Y-R<sub>b</sub> or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa

- 56 -



IIa



IIIa

wherein

R<sub>9</sub> is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OR<sub>a</sub>, -SR<sub>a</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, halo, -N<sub>3</sub>, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylC(O)-, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino, amino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-C<sub>5-7</sub>cycloalkyl, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-heterocyclic, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-C<sub>5-7</sub>aryl, or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-heteroaryl;

Y is a linking group selected from -(C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-CO-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-CO-O-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkylene-O-C(O)-(C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-CO-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-(R<sub>x</sub>)N-CO-O-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-(R<sub>x</sub>)N-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene- or -(C<sub>0-18</sub>)alkylene-arylene-(C<sub>0-18</sub>)alkylene-;

R<sub>x</sub> is H, (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl or phenyl;

R<sub>b</sub> is (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl which is substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -OR<sub>x</sub>, N<sub>3</sub>, halo, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl or pyridyl;

R<sub>8</sub> is H, halo, -N<sub>3</sub>, (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -Z-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -N<sub>3</sub>, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -Z-het, -OR<sub>a</sub> or -SR<sub>a</sub>, -Z-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -N<sub>3</sub>, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -Z-het, -OR<sub>a</sub> or -SR<sub>a</sub>, -O(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkylene-N<sub>3</sub>, -O(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -(C<sub>0-8</sub>)alkylene-OC(O)-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>0-8</sub>)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>0-8</sub>)alkylene-OC(O)-(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>0-8</sub>)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, pyridyl, -OC(O)O(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkyl, -O-CO-X-R<sub>z</sub>, or -O-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-X-R<sub>z</sub> wherein X is a direct bond, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkenylene or (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkynylene and R<sub>z</sub> is H, (C<sub>3-9</sub>)cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, -Z-het, -OR<sub>a</sub>, -SR<sub>a</sub>, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino, amino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -Z-Si((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>3</sub> or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:

- 57 -



Z is a direct bond,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-O-,  $-O-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-N( $R_x$ )-,  $-N(R_x)$ -,  $-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-N(R_x)-C(O)$ -,  $-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-N( $R_x$ )-C(O)-,  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-N( $R_x$ )-C(O)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-CO-N( $R_x$ )-,  $-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-CO-N( $R_x$ )-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-,  $-CO-N(R_x)$ -,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-CO-O-,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-O-C(O)-,  $-OC(O)-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-CO-,  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-CO-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-,  $-CO-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-C(O)$ -,  $-N(R_x)-C(O)-O$ -,  $-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-N( $R_x$ )-C(O)-O-,  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-N( $R_x$ )-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-O-CO-N( $R_x$ )-,  $-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-O-CO-N( $R_x$ )-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-,  $-O-CO-N(R_x)$ -,  $-O-CO-O$ -,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-O-CO-O-,  $-O-CO-O-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene- or  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-;

Z<sub>1</sub> is a direct bond,  $-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-O-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-N( $R_x$ )-C(O)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-,  $-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-CO-N( $R_x$ )-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-,  $-OC(O)-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-CO-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-,  $-CO-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-C(O)$ -,  $-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-N( $R_x$ )-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-,  $-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-O-CO-N( $R_x$ )-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-,  $-O-CO-O-(C_{1-12})$ alkylene- or  $-(C_{1-8})$ alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-;

R<sub>10</sub> is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo,  $-(C_{1-17})$ alkyl,  $-O-(C_{1-17})$ alkyl,  $-(CH_2)_{1-6}-C_{3-7}$ -cycloalkyl,  $-(CH_2)_{0-10}$ -aryl or  $-(CH_2)_{0-10}$ -het;

het is a heterocyclic or heteroaromatic ring;

p is 1-18;

with the proviso that when n is 2 and R<sub>1</sub> is (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl-CH=CH- or (C<sub>3-6</sub>)cycloalkyl-CH=CH- then R<sub>7</sub> is not H or (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl or R<sub>8</sub> is not  $-O-CO-X-R_z$  or  $-O-CO-(CH_2)_m-O-(CH_2)_m-X$  where X is a direct bond, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkenylene or (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkynylene and R<sub>z</sub> is H, (C<sub>3-9</sub>)cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, and

with the further proviso that  $R_8$  is not  $-OH$  when  $n$  is 2,  $R_7$  is H or methyl and  $R_1$  is 3-methylbut-1-enylene.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

$n$  is 2;

$R_1$  is  $X_1-(C_{1-6})$  alkyl-,  $X_2-(C_{2-4})$  alkenylene-,  $X_1-(C_{3-7})$  cycloalkyl-, or  $X_1-(C_{3-7})$  cycloalkane- $(C_{1-3})$ alkylene-;

$X_1$  is H,  $(C_{1-12})$  alkyl,  $(C_{3-7})$  cycloalkyl,  $-(C_{1-12})$  alkyl substituted by  $(C_{3-7})$  cycloalkyl,  $-OR_a$ ,  $-SR_a$ ,  $-NO_2$ , halo or  $(C_{1-12})$  alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl- $(C_{1-12})$  alkyl- or  $-OR_a$ ;

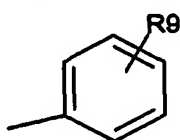
$X_2$  is H,  $(C_{1-12})$  alkyl,  $(C_{3-7})$  cycloalkyl,  $-(C_{1-12})$  alkyl substituted by  $(C_{3-7})$  cycloalkyl,  $-OR_a$ ,  $-SR_a$ ,  $-NO_2$ , halo or  $(C_{1-12})$  alkylC(O)-, aryl, aryl- $(C_{1-12})$  alkyl-;

$R_a$  is H,  $(C_{1-18})$  alkyl, aryl-, or  $(C_{1-18})$  alkyl substituted by  $(C_{3-7})$  cycloalkyl or aryl;

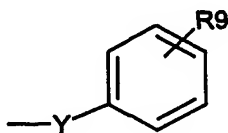
$R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are independently hydrogen or  $(C_{1-4})$  alkyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 8 carbon atoms, especially no more than 4 carbon atoms, in the combined  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  alkyl substituents;

$R_6$  is hydrogen or  $(C_{1-6})$  alkyl;

$R_7$  is H,  $(C_{1-6})$  alkyl,  $R_x$ ,  $(C_{1-18})$  alkyl substituted by  $(C_{3-7})$  cycloalkyl,  $-OR_x$ ,  $N_3$ , halo,  $-N(R_x)_2$ ,  $-O-(C_{1-6})$  alkyl,  $-OC(O)-(C_{1-18})$  alkyl or pyridyl; or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa



IIa



IIIa

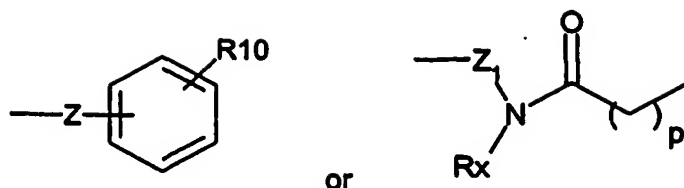
$R_9$  is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from  $(C_{1-6})$  alkyl,  $-OR_a$ ,  $-SR_a$ ,  $-NO_2$ , halo, or  $-N_3$ ;

$Y$  is a linking group selected from  $-C(O)N(R_x)-$ ,  $-CO-O-$ ,  $-(C_{1-12})$  alkylene- $CO-O-$ ,  $-CO-O-(C_{1-12})$  alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-10})$  alkylene- $CO-O-(C_{1-10})$  alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-10})$  alkylene- $O-C(O)-(C_{1-10})$  alkylene-,  $-CO-$ ,  $-(C_{1-12})$  alkylene- $CO-$ ,  $-CO-(C_{1-12})$  alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-10})$  alkylene- $CO-(C_{1-10})$  alkylene-,  $-(C_{1-12})$  alkylene- $(R_x)N-CO-$ ,  $-(C_{1-10})$  alkylene- $(R_x)N-CO-O-(C_{1-10})$  alkylene-, or  $-(C_{0-12})$  alkylene-arylene- $(C_{0-12})$  alkylene-;

$R_x$  is H,  $(C_{1-4})$  alkyl or phenyl;

$R_8$  is  $-N_3$ ,  $(C_{1-18})$  alkyl,  $-Z-(C_{1-18})$  alkyl,  $(C_{1-18})$  alkyl substituted by  $(C_{3-7})$  cycloalkyl,  $-N_3$ , or  $-N(R_x)_2$ ;  $-Z-(C_{1-18})$  alkyl substituted in the alkyl portion by  $(C_{3-7})$  cycloalkyl,  $-N_3$ , or  $-N(R_x)_2$ ,  $-(C_{0-6})$  alkylene- $(O)C-O-(C_{1-18})$  alkyl, or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:

- 59 -



Z is a direct bond,  $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-}$ ,  $-N(R_x)-C(O)-$ ,  $-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-}$ ,  $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-}N(R_x)-C(O)-$ ,  $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-}N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-}$ ,  $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-CO-}N(R_x)-$ ,  $-\text{CO-}N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-}$ ,  $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-CO-}N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-}$ ,  $-\text{CO-}N(R_x)-$ ,  $-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-}$ ,  $-\text{CO-}(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-}$ ,  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-$ ,  $-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-}$ ,  $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-}N(R_x)-C(O)-O-$ ,  $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-}N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-}$ ,  $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-O-CO-}N(R_x)-$ ,  $-O-\text{CO-}N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-}$ ,  $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-O-CO-}N(R_x)-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-}$  or  $-O-\text{CO-}N(R_x)-$ ;

Z<sub>1</sub> is a direct bond,  $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-}$  or  $-C(O)-$ ;

R<sub>10</sub> is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo,  $-(C_{1-17})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-O-(C_{1-17})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-(CH_2)_{1-6}-C_{3-7}\text{-cycloalkyl}$ ,  $-(CH_2)_{0-10}\text{-aryl}$  or  $-(CH_2)_{0-10}\text{-het}$ ; and het is pyridyl.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

R<sub>1</sub> is  $(C_{1-8})\text{alkyl-ethenylene-}$ ;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, independently are hydrogen or  $(C_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ , wherein there is no more than a total of 4 carbon atoms in the combined R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> alkyl substituents;

R<sub>5</sub> is  $(C_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ;

R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen or methyl;

R<sub>7</sub> is H or  $(C_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$ ;

R<sub>8</sub> is H,  $-N_3$ ,  $(C_{1-16})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-Z-(C_{1-16})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $(C_{1-16})\text{alkyl}$  substituted by  $(C_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ ,  $-N_3$ , or  $-N(R_x)_2$ ; or  $-Z-(C_{1-16})\text{alkyl}$  substituted in the alkyl portion by  $(C_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ ,  $-N_3$ , or  $-N(R_x)_2$ ;

R<sub>9</sub> is  $(CH_2)_{0-2}-C_{5-7}\text{ cycloalkyl}$ ,  $(CH_2)_{0-2}-C_{5-7}\text{ hetero-cyclic}$ ,  $(CH_2)_{0-2}-C_{5-7}\text{ aryl}$ , or  $(CH_2)_{0-2}-C_{5-7}\text{ hetero-aryl}$ ;

X is  $(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$  or  $(C_{2-12})\text{alkenylene}$ ;

R<sub>10</sub> is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo,  $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-O-(C_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-(CH_2)_{1-6}-C_{3-7}\text{-cycloalkyl}$ ,  $-(CH_2)_{0-10}\text{-aryl}$  or  $-(CH_2)_{0-10}\text{-het}$ ;

het is pyridyl;

n is 2.

4. A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

R<sub>1</sub> is -CH=CH-*i*-propyl or -CH=CH-*t*-butyl;

X<sub>2</sub> is H;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> independently are hydrogen or methyl;

R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen;

R<sub>7</sub> is H or (C<sub>1-3</sub>) alkyl; and

n is 2.

5. A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

R<sub>1</sub> is X<sub>1</sub>-(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkane-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene- or X<sub>2</sub>-(C<sub>3-9</sub>)cycloalkene-;

X<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen;

X<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> independently are hydrogen or methyl;

R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen;

R<sub>7</sub> is H or (C<sub>1-3</sub>) alkyl;

R<sub>8</sub> is hydrogen; and

n is 2.

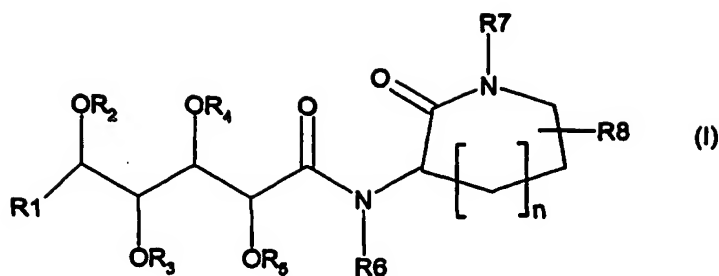
6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1-5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

8. Use of a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1-5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the treatment of cancer.

9. Use of a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1-5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of cancer.

10. A process to prepare the compound of the formula I:



or a salt thereof, wherein

$n$  is 0, 1 or 2;

$R_1$  is H,  $X_1$ -( $C_{1-8}$ ) alkyl-, ( $C_{1-12}$ )alkylC(O)-,  $X_2$ -( $C_{2-4}$ ) alkenylene-,  $X_2$ -( $C_{2-4}$ ) alkynylene-,  $X_1$ -( $C_{3-9}$ )cycloalkyl-,  $X_2$ -( $C_{3-9}$ )cycloalkene-,  $X_1$ -aryl-,  $X_1$ -( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkane-( $C_{1-8}$ )alkylene-,  $X_2$ -( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkene-( $C_{1-8}$ )alkylene-, or  $X_1$ -aryl-( $C_{1-8}$ )alkylene-;

$X_1$  is H, ( $C_{1-14}$ )alkyl, ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, ( $C_{1-14}$ )alkyl substituted by ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl,  $-OR_a$ ,  $-SR_a$ ,  $-NO_2$ , halo or ( $C_{1-8}$ )alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-( $C_{1-12}$ )alkyl-,  $-OR_a$ ,  $-SR_a$ ,  $-NO_2$ , halo, ( $C_{1-12}$ )alkyl-C(O)-, mono- or di-( $C_{1-4}$ )alkylamino, amino( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl-, or mono- or di-( $C_{1-4}$ )alkylamino( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl;

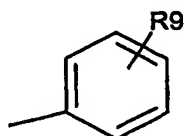
$X_2$  is H, ( $C_{1-14}$ )alkyl, ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, ( $C_{1-14}$ )alkyl substituted by ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl,  $-OR_a$ ,  $-SR_a$ ,  $-NO_2$ , halo or ( $C_{1-8}$ )alkyl-C(O)-; aryl, aryl-( $C_{1-12}$ )alkyl-, amino( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl- or mono- or di-( $C_{1-4}$ )alkylamino( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl;

$R_a$  is H, ( $C_{1-18}$ )alkyl, aryl, or ( $C_{1-18}$ )alkyl substituted by ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, aryl,  $-OH$ ,  $-O$ -( $C_{1-8}$ )alkyl or halo;

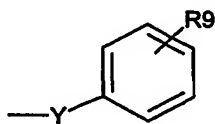
$R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are independently hydrogen or ( $C_{1-18}$ )alkyl,  $R_5$  is also phenyl or ( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl which is substituted by phenyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 18 carbon atoms in the combined  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  alkyl substituents, or  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  together or  $R_3$  and  $R_5$  together form an acetal group;

$R_6$  is hydrogen or ( $C_{1-6}$ ) alkyl;

$R_7$  is H, ( $C_{1-18}$ )alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, ( $C_{1-18}$ )alkyl substituted by ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl,  $-OR_x$ ,  $N_3$ , halo,  $-N(R_x)_2$ ,  $R_x$ ,  $-O$ -( $C_{1-8}$ )alkyl,  $-OC(O)$ -( $C_{1-16}$ )alkyl or pyridyl;  $-Y-R_b$  or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa



IIa



IIIa

wherein

R<sub>9</sub> is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OR<sub>a</sub>, -SR<sub>a</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, halo, -N<sub>3</sub>, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylC(O)-, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino, amino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-heterocyclic, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-C<sub>6-7</sub>aryl, or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-heteroaryl;

Y is a linking group selected from -(C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-CO-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-CO-O-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkylene-O-C(O)-(C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-CO-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-(R<sub>x</sub>)N-CO-O-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-(R<sub>x</sub>)N-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene- or -(C<sub>0-18</sub>)alkylene-arylene-(C<sub>0-18</sub>)alkylene-;

R<sub>x</sub> is H, (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl or phenyl;

R<sub>b</sub> is (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl which is substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -OR<sub>x</sub>, N<sub>3</sub>, halo, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl or pyridyl;

R<sub>8</sub> is H, halo, -N<sub>3</sub>, (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -Z-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -N<sub>3</sub>, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -Z-het, -OR<sub>a</sub> or -SR<sub>a</sub>, -Z-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -N<sub>3</sub>, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -Z-het, -OR<sub>a</sub> or -SR<sub>a</sub>, -O(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkylene-N<sub>3</sub>, -O(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -(C<sub>0-6</sub>)alkylene-OC(O)-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>0-6</sub>)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>0-6</sub>)alkylene-OC(O)-(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>0-6</sub>)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, pyridyl, -OC(O)O(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkyl, -O-CO-X-R<sub>z</sub>, or -O-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-X-R<sub>z</sub> wherein X is a direct bond, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkenylene or (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkynylene and R<sub>z</sub> is H, (C<sub>3-8</sub>)cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, -Z-het, -OR<sub>a</sub>, -SR<sub>a</sub>, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino, amino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -Z-Si((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>3</sub> or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:



Z is a direct bond, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-O-, -O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-



CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-CO-O-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-O-C(O)-, -OC(O)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-CO-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-CO-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -CO-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -O-CO-O-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-O-, -O-CO-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene- or -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-;

Z<sub>1</sub> is a direct bond, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -OC(O)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-CO-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -CO-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -O-CO-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene- or -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-;

R<sub>10</sub> is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C<sub>1-17</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-17</sub>)alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-8</sub>-C<sub>3-7</sub>-cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-10</sub>-aryl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-10</sub>-het;

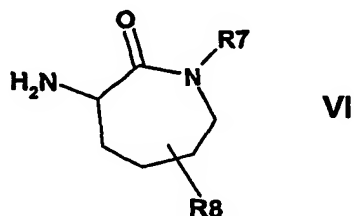
het is a heterocyclic or heteroaromatic ring;

p is 1-18;

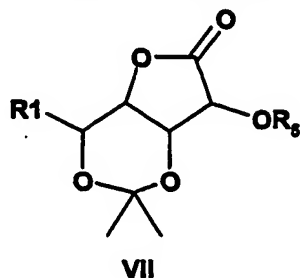
with the proviso that when n is 2 and R<sub>1</sub> is (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl-CH=CH- or (C<sub>3-6</sub>)cycloalkyl-CH=CH- then R<sub>7</sub> is not H or (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl or R<sub>8</sub> is not -O-CO-X-R<sub>z</sub> or -O-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-X-R<sub>z</sub> where X is a direct bond, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkenylene or (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkynylene and R<sub>z</sub> is H, (C<sub>3-9</sub>)cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, and with the further proviso that R<sub>8</sub> is not -OH when n is 2, R<sub>7</sub> is H or methyl and R<sub>1</sub> is 3-methylbut-1-enylene;

comprising the following steps:

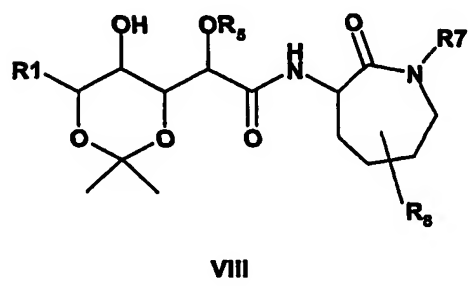
(a) reacting the compound of formula VI or an acid addition salt thereof



wherein  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are defined above, with the compound of formula VII



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_5$  are defined above, to form a compound of formula VIII

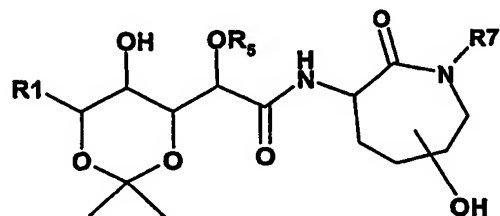


; and

(b) hydrolyzing the compound of formula VIII.

11. The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein step (a) is conducted in a polar organic solvent or in the presence of a weak base and a polar organic solvent.

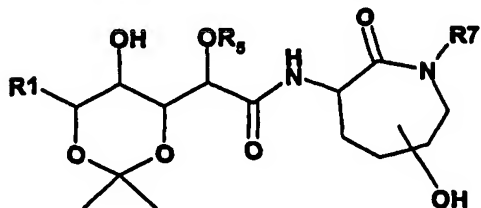
12. The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the compound of VIII is prepared by reacting the compound of XI



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_5$  and  $R_7$  are defined in claim 10, with an acid chloride in the presence of a base and a solvent.

13. The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the acid chloride is of the formula  $R_{12}COCl$ , wherein  $R_{12}$  is an appropriate substituent based on the definition of  $R_8$ ; the base is triethylamine and the solvent is dichloromethane.

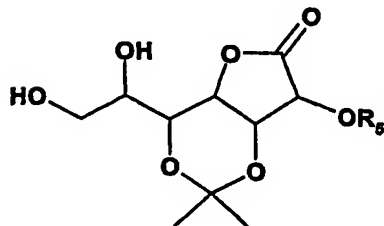
14. The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the compound of VIII is prepared by reacting the compound of XI



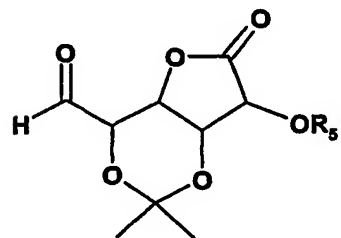
wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_5$  and  $R_7$  are defined in claim 11, with a carboxylic acid in the presence of a carboxylic acid coupling agent and an activating agent.

15. The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the carboxylic acid is of the formula  $R_{12}COOH$  wherein  $R_{12}$  is an appropriate substituent based on the definition of  $R_8$ ; the carboxylic acid coupling reagent is 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride and the activating agent is 4-dimethylaminopyridine.

16. The process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the compound of formula VII is prepared by cleaving the compound of formula XXXIII



wherein  $R_5$  is defined in claim 10, to obtain the compound XXXIV



; and

reacting the compound of XXXIV with an organometallic compound in the presence of a solvent mixture.

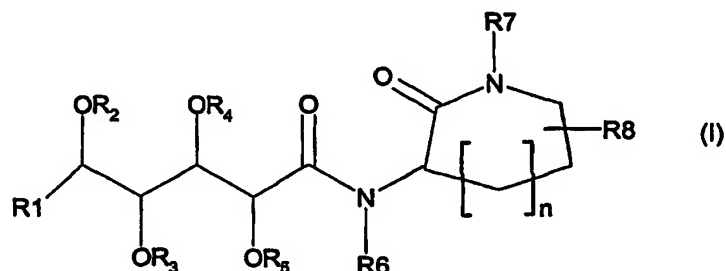
17. The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein cleaving the compound of formula XXXIII is carried out in the presence of a periodate salt in a solvent.

18. The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the periodate salt is sodium periodate and the solvent is methanol.

19. The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the organometallic compound is an organochromium compound, and the solvent mixture comprises of a polar organic solvent and an inert organic solvent.

20. The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the polar organic solvent is N,N-dimethylformamide and the inert organic solvent is tetrahydrofuran.

21. A process to prepare the compound of the formula I:



or a salt thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R1 is H, X<sub>1</sub>-(C<sub>1-6</sub>) alkyl-, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylC(O)-, X<sub>2</sub>-(C<sub>2-4</sub>) alkenylene-, X<sub>2</sub>-(C<sub>2-4</sub>) alkynylene-, X<sub>1</sub>-(C<sub>3-9</sub>)cycloalkyl-, X<sub>2</sub>-(C<sub>3-9</sub>)cycloalkene-, X<sub>1</sub>-aryl-, X<sub>1</sub>-(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkane-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylene-, X<sub>2</sub>-(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkene-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylene-, or X<sub>1</sub>-aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylene-;

X<sub>1</sub> is H, (C<sub>1-14</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>1-14</sub>)alkyl substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -OR<sub>a</sub>, -SR<sub>a</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, halo or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkyl-, -OR<sub>a</sub>, -SR<sub>a</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, halo, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkyl-C(O)-, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino, amino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl-, or mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl;

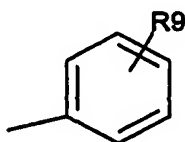
X<sub>2</sub> is H, (C<sub>1-14</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>1-14</sub>)alkyl substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -OR<sub>a</sub> -SR<sub>a</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, halo or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-C(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkyl-, amino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl- or mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl;

R<sub>a</sub> is H, (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkyl, aryl, or (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkyl substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, aryl, -OH, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl or halo;

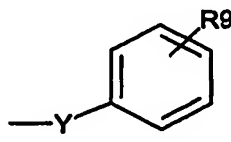
R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are independently hydrogen or (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkyl, R<sub>5</sub> is also phenyl or (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl which is substituted by phenyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 18 carbon atoms in the combined R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> alkyl substituents, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> together or R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> together form an acetal group;

R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1-6</sub>) alkyl;

R<sub>7</sub> is H, (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkyl substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -OR<sub>x</sub>, N<sub>3</sub>, halo, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>x</sub>, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl or pyridyl; -Y-R<sub>b</sub> or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa



IIa



IIIa

wherein

R<sub>9</sub> is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OR<sub>a</sub>, -SR<sub>a</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, halo, -N<sub>3</sub>, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylC(O)-, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino, amino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-C<sub>5-7</sub>cycloalkyl, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-heterocyclic, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-C<sub>6-7</sub>aryl, or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2</sub>-heteroaryl;

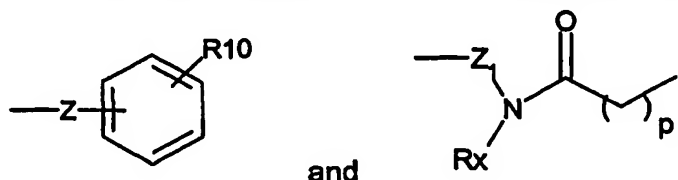
Y is a linking group selected from -(C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-CO-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-CO-O-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkylene-O-C(O)-(C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-CO-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-(R<sub>x</sub>)N-CO-O-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-(R<sub>x</sub>)N-(C<sub>0-10</sub>)alkylene- or -(C<sub>0-18</sub>)alkylene-arylene-(C<sub>0-18</sub>)alkylene-;

R<sub>x</sub> is H, (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl or phenyl;

R<sub>b</sub> is (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl which is substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -OR<sub>x</sub>, N<sub>3</sub>, halo, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl or pyridyl;

R<sub>8</sub> is H, halo, -N<sub>3</sub>, (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -Z-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -N<sub>3</sub>, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -Z-het, -OR<sub>a</sub> or -SR<sub>a</sub>, -Z-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl substituted by (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -N<sub>3</sub>, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -Z-het, -OR<sub>a</sub> or -SR<sub>a</sub>, -O(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkylene-N<sub>3</sub>, -O(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -(C<sub>0-6</sub>)alkylene-OC(O)-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>0-6</sub>)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C<sub>1-16</sub>)alkyl, -(C<sub>0-6</sub>)alkylene-OC(O)-(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, -(C<sub>0-6</sub>)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, pyridyl, -OC(O)O(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkyl, -O-CO-X-R<sub>z</sub>, or -O-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-X-R<sub>z</sub> wherein X is a direct bond, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene, (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkenylene or (C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkynylene and R<sub>z</sub> is H, (C<sub>3-9</sub>)cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl

substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, -Z-het, -OR<sub>8</sub>, -SR<sub>8</sub>, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino, amino(C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1-18</sub>)alkyl, -Z-Si((C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl)<sub>3</sub> or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:



Z is a direct bond, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-O-, -O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-CO-O-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-O-C(O)-, -OC(O)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-CO-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-CO-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -CO-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-, -O-CO-O-, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-O-, -O-CO-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene- or -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-;

Z<sub>1</sub> is a direct bond, -(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -OC(O)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-CO-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -CO-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene-, -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-O-CO-N(R<sub>x</sub>)-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-, -O-CO-O-(C<sub>1-12</sub>)alkylene- or -(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkylene-;

R<sub>10</sub> is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C<sub>1-17</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-17</sub>)alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-8</sub>-C<sub>3-7</sub>-cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-10</sub>-aryl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-10</sub>-het;

het is a heterocyclic or heteroaromatic ring;

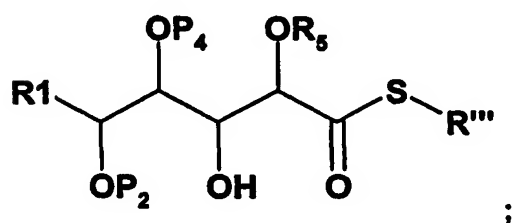
p is 1-18;

with the proviso that when n is 2 and R<sub>1</sub> is (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl-CH=CH- or (C<sub>3-6</sub>)cycloalkyl-CH=CH- then R<sub>7</sub> is not H or (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl or R<sub>8</sub> is not -O-CO-X-R<sub>z</sub> or -O-CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-X-

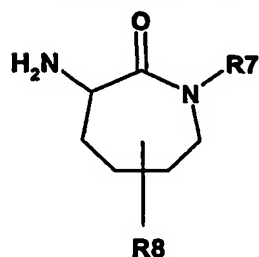
$R_2$  where X is a direct bond,  $(C_{1-12})$ alkylene,  $(C_{1-12})$ alkenylene or  $(C_{1-12})$ alkynylene and  $R_2$  is H,  $(C_{3-6})$ cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy,  $(C_{1-18})$ alkyl or  $(C_{1-18})$ alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, and with the further proviso that  $R_6$  is not  $-OH$  when n is 2,  $R_7$  is H or methyl and  $R_1$  is 3-methylbut-1-enylene;

comprising the following steps:

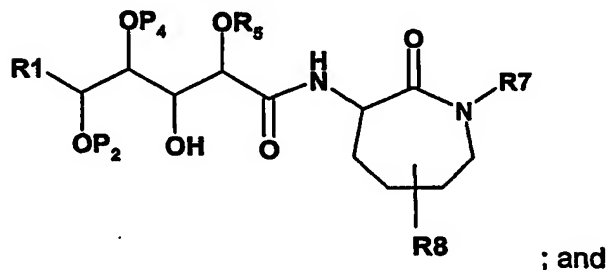
(a) reacting a compound of formula XLI



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_5$  are defined above,  $P_2$  and  $P_4$  are protective groups, and  $R'''$  is a  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl, with the compound of formula VI



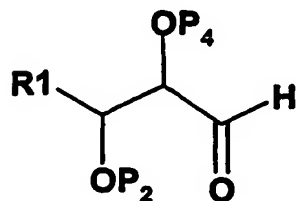
wherein  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are defined above, to form the compound of formula XLII



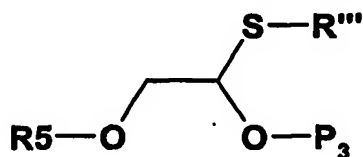
(b) deprotecting the compound of formula XLII.

22. The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein  $R'''$  is ethyl,  $P_2$  is *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl, and  $P_4$  is selected from benzyl or naphthylmethylethers.

23. The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the compound of formula XLI is prepared by reacting the compound of formula XL



wherein R<sub>1</sub>, P<sub>2</sub> and P<sub>4</sub> are defined in claim 21 with a compound having the following formula



wherein R<sub>5</sub> and R''' are defined in claim 21 and P<sub>3</sub> is a protective group.

24. The process as claimed in claim 23, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of a Lewis acid and a solvent.

25. The process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the Lewis acid is SnCl<sub>4</sub> and the solvent is a mixture of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and heptane.